3: Hiscocks G-4, 5 (1946-1949) 1953 EK1 Austria EK1



167 in Austria to find new homes abroad or to return to their own countries. More important for Austria's future were those who remained behind. By the end of 1951 citizenship had been granted to over 214,000 of them, of whom the great majority were German-speaking. That still left nearly 360,000 whose fate was undecided, though 60,000 had been granted residence permits, a necessary preliminary to obtaining citizenship.

The main burden of maintaining camps for displaced persons fell on the Austrian Government, in spite of a $7 million grant from the International Refugee Organization. But the expense was offset from the beginning, when labour was short, by the contribution made to the national economy by the many who worked. The balance-sheet for those who became Austrian nationals must include political and cultural, as well as economic factors.

167 The new citizens have, on the whole, played a valuable part
563 in the national life. Their decision to seek naturalization implied, in many cases, a desire to remain in Austria, and it was natural therefore that they should wish to make good in the country of their choice. A large number have found employment on the land and have thus helped to alleviate the serious shortage of agricultural man-power. Others, especially the Sudeten Germans from Czechoslovakia, are industrious and highly skilled workers, and their arrival has enabled Austria to inherit Czechoslovakia's reputation for fine glass-ware, successful glass factories having been established with Sudeten German labour in Salzburg and Upper Austria.

Their political value to Austria is more questionable. The so-called *Volksdeutsche*, or Germans from Central and Eastern Europe, whose cause had, in many cases, been championed by Hitler, undoubtedly include a strong Nazi and ex-Nazi element, as well as exponents of the Greater Germany idea. The *Volksdeutsche* have not only produced disgruntled opponents of the Coalition: they have played a noticeable part in such industrial trouble as has occurred. On the other hand, it would be unfair to generalize. The experiences of some of them have brought final disillusionment both about National

3: Hiscocks G-4, 5 (1946-1949) 1953 EK1 Austria EK1



Socialism and German Imperialism. Most of the *Volksdeutsche* are not only of German stock but come from the Succession States, and therefore have traditional cultural links with Austria. If the Second Austrian Republic provides them with the homes they want and masters the main difficulties with which it is faced, they may yield willingly to its catalytic influence.

A most serious tendency that has become apparent in Austria since the War has been the steady transference of population from the country to the towns—the so-called flight from the land. Not only did the number of insured agricultural workers drop by over 68,000 between 1937 and 1951. In June 1952 the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry pointed out that during 1950 on an average two farmers, five farmers' children, and sixteen labourers left their farms every day to seek work in the towns or in other branches of the economy. This indicated that the general trend was affecting the farmers and their families, as well as the paid workers. Moreover, the drop in the number of labourers would have been far worse had not over 60,000 refugees and displaced persons sought work on the land.

The significance of the tendency can only be appreciated in relation to the economic position of Austria as a whole. Even a highly industrialized State like England, with a record of great success in the past, is being compelled by world conditions to force up its food production. Austria has not the resources necessary to concentrate on industry, and in present circumstances cannot afford to allow any branch of its production to fall below its proved capacity. The loss of man-power can in some measure be counteracted still further by mechanization, but the possibilities in this direction are strictly limited in a country where the farms are small and the countryside mountainous.

Migration to the towns is a world phenomenon, and some of the causes of it are common to the many countries concerned: the glamour of city life, the more regular working hours, and above all the greater social opportunities that a

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been made to guard against such an occurrence by the construction of mighty barricades. Whether man will be found to have succeeded in banning such elemental natural violence, the future will show.

Further up the Ill lies Schruns, the chief town of the Montafon, nestling picturesquely in an arm of the valley. Few places in Vorarlberg have been so fitted by climate and surroundings to become a health resort as this pretty market town.

*Snakes on the Arlberg.*

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It is indisputable that the people of the Montafon are very different from the rest of the population of Vorarlberg, as their customs, temperament and language plainly show. Montafon has withstood germanisation longer than any other part of Vorarlberg, and has thus preserved certain characteristics of its original Romanic population.

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Opposite Schruns lies Tschagguns, once much visited by pilgrims but nowadays more of a centre for winter-sport. Tschagguns has particularly good ski-ing facilities and is also the starting-point for trips to the Rätikon, the excursion being facilitated by a cable railway to Grabs, 4,800 feet above sea level. In the area accessible from Tschagguns, the exacting mountain climber will find the same satisfaction as the tourist who wants only to discover and meditate on the beauties of nature. The way to the Gauertal, which is widely known for its beautiful scenery, the end of the valley with the Lindau Hut rising from the last scrubby pines in the foreground, backed by the Three Towers in the distance, has been characterised by the most experienced and best-known Alpine climbers as unique and incomparable.

*Bruneck Tower.*

A few miles beyond Schruns, on the slopes of the mighty Kapelljoch, which is to be made accessible by a cable railway, in a narrow part of the Montafon Valley lies the district of the "Fratte", which divides the valley into Outer and Inner Montafon, or, as the inhabitants say, "Outer and Inner Fratte". The first hamlet of the Inner Fratte is St. Gallenkirch, whence the valley of the Suggadin river stretches away in the south to the mountain health-resort of Gargellen. Surrounded by the most bizarre of mountain scenery, the latter is, perhaps, artistically

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### *A PAGE OF HISTORY*

*Meinhart the Second (of Görz) who was Meinhart the First of Tyrol, the man who formed the Province into a political unit in the thirteenth century, gave it the name of his castle near Meran, Schloss Tirol, is little remembered today. His wife, Elizabeth, on the other hand, still lives in the memory of the people. The widow of the Emperor Conrad the Fourth and mother of Conradin, she gave Tyrol the impressive background of the Staufer Empire. She set up a permanent memorial to her unhappy son in the Monastery of Stams. Meinhart, through the marriage of his daughter with the son of the Emperor Rudolf I, established the first connection with the House of Hapsburg.*

*Popular interest concentrates much more on the stirring story of Meinhart's grandchild Margaretha Maultasch ("Pocket-Mouthed Meg"), who drove out her first husband to marry her own cousin. She was excommunicated by the Church on the grounds that this marriage involved a double sin. It was long years before the ban was lifted. She survived her second husband and only son; in 1363 she made over "the land on the Etsch and the Inn Valley with Schloss Tirol and all else appertaining thereto" to Rudolf the Endower. Fourteen gentlemen of Tyrol put their seals to the deed in the name of all inhabitants of the Duchy, of the "clergy and laymen, nobles and commoners, wether living in the towns or in the country". With this impressive voluntary deed Tyrol began its life in the federation of Austrian Provinces. It soon found an opportunity to prove its loyalty.*

*Friedl with the Empty Pocket, popular despite his outlawry and excommunication, confirmed the freedom of the Province at the Diet of Meran in 1423, when for the first time burghers*

of the ice world of the Ötztal may enjoy eternal spring the same evening 9000 feet below amid vines and chestnut trees. The modern mountain railways make the contrast even more unbelievable.

THE TYROLESE. You will find among the people of Tyrol as many contrasts as those which characterise its landscape. To Tyrol the Bavarians came from the north and north-east, from the west and north-west the Allemanians, and from the south, Latin races infiltrated. The remnants of an aboriginal population whose source is obscure sought refuge from the invaders among the crags and crannies of the mountains where their descendants are to be found to this day. Throughout the length and breadth of the country you will come across curious names of village and pasture which recall these various races. Tyrol, which resembles Switzerland in this respect, managed to weld these various tribes—and later the people of German, Italian and Ladinian race—together, to live peacefully in a small area. Today these elements have overcome the limitations of nationalism and feel themselves to be above all Tyrolese. Once again the forces making for unity proved stronger than those tending towards separation, and the passes, as the word implies, have become links, not barriers.

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In Tyrol, inhabitants, dialect, costume, methods of building houses and of agriculture

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133 Austrian alpine foothills, to which it by its character belongs. Sandwiched in between, on the upper Pinka, one finds a living witness to Burgenland history in the Magyar enclave of Oberwart.

175 563 The Magyars came to Pannonia about 896 A.D. In 907 A.D. they destroyed the Bavarian armies near Pressburg, thus putting an end to the Frankish-Bavarian Pannonian Mark. For half a century hordes of Hungarian horsemen overran Europe, spreading out even to France and Italy. The Battle of Lechfeld in 955 A.D. put an end to this, and the Magyars then tried to secure themselves a permanent home in the Danube Basin. Their "Westwall" was the impenetrable forests of southern Burgenland, and, further northwards, the swamps of Rabnitz. The valleys in the forest belt were defended by barricades and troops.

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*Oberwart.*

In one of these "Warte" or outposts, which is today the Hungarian-speaking village of Oberwart, the Magyar garrison maintained itself for 1000 years. Here the Magyar origin of the population is still evident in their speech and picturesque dress.

133 529 There are traces of almost every period of Burgenland history in the district of Oberwart. The most valuable heritage is that left by the extinct volcanoes at Tatzmannsdorf, a healing centre for heart complaints and feminine ailments—an Austrian version of Franzensbad.

135 Geologists will find much to interest them in these parts. The brown-coal mines of Tauchen, the antimony and sulphur-stone deposits at Schlaining, the iron ore which was mined even in Celtic-Illyrian times at Eisenzicken